

Montana Department of Military Affairs  
**Disaster & Emergency Services Division**  
**State Emergency Coordination Center**

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**Situation Report for July 20, 2007** (issued @ 1500 hrs.)

## **07 FIRES**

**I. - Background Information**

- Since June, hot and dry weather has dominated the region creating very high to extreme fire conditions. Fire Indices are at an all time high while fuel moistures are low. Accompanying the high indices are weather patterns that have set the conditions for lightning and lightning caused starts. High pressure weather patterns over the region are responsible for the high temperatures and little to no moisture. Occasional cold fronts push through the region causing severe lightning storms that ignite wildfires. Rain has accompanied these fronts but a return to a high pressure system mitigates any moisture that fell. The weather forecast projects a continuing of the high pressure systems through August and possible into September.

**II. - Current Conditions**

- **Little Wolf Fire** in the Wolf Creek drainage grew to 360 acres with 58 homes evacuated. A type II Incident Management Team has been requested. Lewis and Clark County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated.
- **Other fires of interest :**
- **Ahorn Fire** on the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Lewis and Clark County, is at 7,270 acres. A Type I Incident Management Team (Bennett) is managing this fire. Containment is 0%
- **Novak**, in Lewis and Clark County in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, is at 357 acres. Structures are threatened. 0% contained
- **Fool Creek** on the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Lewis and Clark County is at 6214 acres. Percent contained is unknown. Transfer from Svalberg's Fire Use Management Team to Hall's Fire Use Team will occur on 7/22.

### III. - Weather

**Red flag warning** in effect for portions of southwest Montana for this afternoon and evening due to low humidities and increasing winds...

Discussion:

A weak cool front moved through the region last night...bringing in slightly drier air to the rocky mountain front region and adjacent plains. However...the upper level ridge will start to rebuild this afternoon and over the weekend...allowing for temperatures to remain hot through early next week. Low humidities this afternoon combined with an increasing wind will allow for red flag conditions over southwest Montana. Possible additional red flags could be issued for Saturday / Sunday if winds become strong enough. Expect a few isolated thunderstorms this afternoon/evening...with a few storms producing strong erratic wind gusts.

Forecast days 3 through 7.....

**Saturday night**...mostly clear. Slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 60s. West winds 5 to 15 mph

**Sunday**...mostly sunny...then partly cloudy with slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Highs in the lower 80s. West winds up to 10 mph shifting to the south in the evening.

**Monday**...partly cloudy. Slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Highs in the lower 80s.southeast winds up to 10 mph.

**Tuesday**...partly cloudy. Slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 60. Highs in the upper 70s. Southeast winds up to 10 mph.

**Wednesday**...partly cloudy. Slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Highs in the lower 80s.

**Thursday**...partly cloudy. Slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Highs in the lower 80

### IV. - Local and Tribal Declarations

- N/A

### V. - Requests for State Financial Assistance

- N/A

### VI. - Summary of State Resources Committed

- July 20, 2007 at 0700 the SECC was activated to a Level III status with extended hours (0700-1900). The MT DES staff Duty Officer is available 24 hrs and may be reached at (406) 841-3911.
- MT DES continues to provide agency representatives to effected areas to assist local and Tribal governments.
- The Lewis and Clark County Emergency Operation Center was activated on July19 ,2007.